

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 01975 021150 Z

45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 ACDA-19 GAC-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 EB-11 SCEM-02

/138 W

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R 281330 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1632

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 1975

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (O M I T T E D P A R A 3 A N D 4)

DEPT PASS BAGHDAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR, UR

SUBJ: COMMENTS OF FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL ON KOSYGIN

VISIT TO IRAN

REF: A) TEHRAN 1713; B) TEHRAN 1827; C) TEHRAN 1840 (EXDIS)

SUMMARY: DURING POST MORTEM ON RECENT KOSYGIN VISIT TO IRAN,
MFA' S DIRECTOR OF SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE DIVISION
MOFAKHAM- SANII TOLD EMBASSY THAT A) LAST MINUTE SOVIET DECISION
TO SEND PREMIER KOSYGIN TO IRAN RATHER THAN LOWER RANKING
OFFICIAL WAS DESIGNED TO PLACATE AN IRAN WHICH WAS UNHAPPY
OVER RECENT AREA DEVELOPMENTS; B) A SOVIET DELEGATION IS DUE
SOON IN TEHRAN TO NEGOTIATE HIGHER PRICES FOR IRANIAN
NATURAL GAS GOING TO USSR; C) RELEASE OF DOWNED IRANIAN HELICOPTER
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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 01975 021150 Z

AND CREWMEN FROM IRAQ RESULTED FROM SOVIET PRODDING OF BAGHDAD;
AND D) IRAN HAD MADE NO CONCESSIONS TO USSR RE IRANIAN
RESPONSIBILITIES IN PERSIAN GULF. END SUMMARY

1. DURING MARCH 27 CALL BY POLCOUN ON ARSALAN MOFAKHAM- SANII,
DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN MINISTRY' S SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN
EUROPEAN DIVISION, SANII CONFIRMED THAT UNTIL LESS THAN 48
HOURS BEFORE ARRIVAL OF SOVIET DELEGATION FOR INAUGURATION
OF ISFAHAN STEEL MILL BUILT WITH SOVIET ASSISTANCE DESIGNATED
HEAD OF SOVIET DELEGATION WAS CHAIRMAN OF SOVIET STATE
COMMITTEE FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS S. A. SKACHKOV. NO
HINT HAD BEEN RECEIVED THAT KOSYGIN WOULD BE COMING INSTEAD.
SANII EXPLAINED THAT DURING SHAH' S VISIT TO MOSCOW LAST
OCTOBER SOVIETS HAD BEEN INVITED TO SEND DELEGATION FOR
STEEL MILL OPENING. ALTHOUGH IRANIANS HAD NOT SPECIFIED WHO
SHOULD HEAD SOVIET DELEGATION, THEY HAD MADE CLEAR THAT
SHAH WOULD PARTICIPATE ON IRANIAN SIDE.

2. SANII SUGGESTED THAT IRAN HAD EVENTUALLY INTIMATED TO
MOSCOW ITS DISPLEASURE OVER RELATIVELY LOW RANK OF SKACHKOV
AS SOVIET DELEGATION HEAD. SANII ADDED THAT IRAN HAD BEEN
UNHAPPY OVER NUMBER OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA
INCLUDING A) IRAQI REFUSAL TO RETURN IRANIAN HELICOPTER AND
CREW WHICH HAD STRAYED INADVERTENTLY LAST JANUARY INTO IRAQI
TERRITORY; B) GENERALLY HOSTILE IRAQI ATTITUDE
TOWARDS IRAN WHICH, IN IRAN' S VIEW, WAS LINKED TO TREATY
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BAGHDAD AND MOSCOW AND; C) DISCOVERY OF
LARGE QUANTITY OF SOVIET ARMS IN IRAQI EMBASSY IN ISLAMABAD.
IRAN HAD NOT KEPT ITS DISPLEASURE TO ITSELF BUT ON CONTRARY
HAD HIGHLIGHTED IT BY NEWSPAPERS, RADIO, AND TELEVISION.
LEST MINUTE DECISION BY MOSCOW TO SEND KOSYGIN TO TEHRAN WAS
INTERPRETED BY SANII (AND PRESUMABLY BY HIGHER GOI AUTHORITIES)
AS SOVIET EFFORT TO PLACATE IRAN.

3. WITH RESPECT TO IRAN NATURAL GAS TO SOVIET UNION,
SANII SAID IRANIANS HAD TOLD VISITING SOVIETS THAT IRAN MUST
HAVE A HIGHER PRICE FROM USSR THAN IT IS NOW GETTING. IRANIAN
SIDE HAD POINTED OUT THAT SOVIETS ARE GETTING HIGHER PRICE FOR
SALES OF ITS OWN GAS TO WESTERN EUROPE THAT IRAN IS GETTING FROM THE
SOVIET UNION. JAPAN IS ALSO PAYING A HIGHER PRICE FOR
IRANIAN GAS. CAUCASUS AREA OF USSR WAS GETTING CHEAPER GAS
THAN WAS WARRANTED BY CURRENT WORLD SUPPLY AND DEMAND
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PAGE 03 TEHRAN 01975 021150 Z

PICTURE. AS RESULT OF STRONG IRANIAN INSISTENCE A

SOVIET DELEGATION WILL ARRIVE SOON IN TEHRAN TO NEGOTIATE A HIGHER PRICE FOR IRANIAN GAS. SANII SAID THERE WAS NO QUESTION THAT THE USSR " MUST" PAY MORE IF IT WANTS IRANIAN GAS SUPPLIES TO CONTINUE.

4. RE UNEXPECTED RELEASE BY IRAQ OF IRANIAN HELICOPTER AND CREWMEN, SANII SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THIS WAS NOT HIS AREA OF COMPETENCE, OPINION IN MFA WAS THAT RELEASE RESULTED FROM SOVIET REPRESENTATIONS IN BAGHDAD. SANII INTIMATED THAT OTHER FAVORABLE SIGNALS MAY HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM BAGHDAD IN IN LAST FEW DAYS BUT AVOIDED BEING EXPLICIT.

5. RE WORDING OF JOINT IRANIAN- SOVIET COMMUNIQUE RELATING TO PERSIAN GULF, SANII INSISTED THERE WAS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LATEST COMMUNIQUE AND THE ONE ISSUED IN MOSCOW LAST OCTOBER ON RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTAINING PERSIAN GULF SECURITY. SOVIETS HAD WANTED SOME CHANGE IN WORDING, BUT WHEN IRANIANS INSISTED THAT WORDING HAD TO BE WHAT IRAN WANTED OR NO REFERENCE AT ALL WOULD BE MADE TO PERSIAN GULF, SOVIETS BOWED TO IRANIAN DESIRES.
HELMS

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED BAGHDAD.
NOTE: EB AND SCEM, TAKE AS ORIGINAL.

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